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Reviews.

Introduction to the Study of Fungi: By M. C. Cooke, LLD. 8vo, pp. 360. London, Adam and Charles Black, 1895.

This is in some respects an elementary work and in others the author may presuppose a fair working knowledge of Fungi. It is designed for the use of collectors, not so much in giving rules for gathering and preserving specimens, as to put before them a large fund of information the bringing together of which has been the work of a long and busy life spent largely among the objects treated. Dr. Cooke has been one of the great workers in fungi from the standpoint of the collector and systematic student.

The work before us is divided into three parts, namely, organography, classification and distribution. Under Part I. chapters are given upon mycelium, carpophore, receptacle, fertilization and similar divisions. In general the plan under each heading is to pass from the simpler to the more complex forms, whether it be mycelium, spores or fertilization.

The main portion (Part II.) of the work takes up by chapters the leading groups and, mentioning the leading genera, introduces the reader to the types and their modifications.

While the work is fairly well illustrated it is noticed that many of the cuts have done service in the author's "Handbook of British Fungi," and other works. Some disappointment may be experienced in working with the index, as it is brief and the glossary has a similar fault. The classification worked out by Brefeld is presented in tabulated form, not that it is accepted by the author, but because suggestive and influential.

In its presentation the publishers might have been more fortunate in the selection of paper, etc. It is a heavy book without reason sufficient to the reviewer, and this will detract, in America at least, from its usefulness. BYRON D. HALSTED.

Contribution to the Flora of Yucatan. C. F. Millspaugh. Pub. Field Col. Mus. Bot. Ser. 1: 1–64. *pl. 1–4.*

In this first botanical paper from the Field Columbian Museum, of Chicago, Dr. Millspaugh enumerates the species collected by him while accompanying Mr. Allison V. Armour's yacht expedition to Yucatan last winter. He has also compiled in the publication the little previous knowledge of the region from the incidental collections of Johnson, Linden, Schott and Gaumer. His collections embrace 136 forms new to the region, of which two (*Euphorbia Armourii* and *E. astroites heterappendculata*) are described as new. We congratulate the Museum upon the character of its publications, and specially upon the style of issue, which seems to include all the excellent points of a perfect departmental serial.

The series included are: Botany, Geology, Zoölogy, Ornithology and Ethnology.

Die Laubmoose. Part 27, Hypnaceae. K. G. Limpricht. (Rab. Kryptfl. 4: part 3, 1–64. 1896).

This part begins the third volume of the mosses, which is to include three families or groups as called by the author, comprising the Isothecieae, Brachythecieae and Hypneae. Of these, the Isotheciae are treated in this number, including the genera *Cylindrothecium*, *Climacium*, *Isothecium*, *Orthothecium*, *Homalothecium*, *Platygyrium* and *Pylaisia.* The *Camptotheciums* also are described and the key to the *Brachytheciums* is given. The keys, descriptions and illustrations are of the usual high order of merit, and we welcome this part as throwing much light on the species of the same genera occurring in the United States. We note that *Platygyrium repens* var. *sciuroides* is described from specimens so named and distributed by Sauter in Breutel's Musci Frondosi, No. 296. According to some studies recently undertaken by Mr. Grout, at the Herbarium of Columbia College, the description of this variety under the name is antedated by *P. repens* var. *orthocladon* Kindb., showing that Kindberg did not sufficiently study and compare his variety with European exsiccatae, and that Limpricht was not aware that an American name antedated his description. A similar case occurs in *Climacium*, where Austin published in the Musci App. No. 289. 1874, a variety of *C. Americanum*, which he called var. *fluitans.* Subsequently Renauld and Cardot published a description (Bot. Gaz. 15: 59. 1890) for this same variety under the name of *C. Americanum* var. *Kindbergi*, a name much less suitable and acceptable to us than Austin's for this aquatic form of the species. It is interesting to learn that there also exists a variety *fluitans* of *C. dendroides*, which also grows floating on the edges of ponds and lakes, while the normal form of both species may be found higher up on the dry banks.

E. G. BRITTON.

Elements of Plant Anatomy. By Emily L. Gregory, Ph. D. Ginn & Co., Boston.

The present small volume of 150 pages is a welcome addition to the few works which deal exclusively with plant anatomy. The author's preface defines the scope of the work, and if it is taken within the definition of its writer we consider it a very excellent guide to the study of plant anatomy for beginners, especially if it is accompanied by class-room work.

The book begins with a general description of the morphology of the plant cell, and is followed by a study of the cell-wall, in which the morphology and the chemical modifications are described. This second chapter is, we think, a very excellent one. In chapter 3, upon cell-contents, the general chemical features of the cytoplasm and the nucleoplasm, in view of the vast amount of recent cytological work, might have been more definite and extended; especially could this be said of the process of karyokinesis. Chapter 4, upon the tissues, is brief and might have been better illustrated. It deals with the general anatomy of the tissues and serves as an introduction to chapter 5, which treats of the anatomical features of the Algae, Fungi, Lichens and Thallose Hepaticae; and to chapter 6, which deals with the details of the anatomy of the Cormophytes, the Mosses, Ferns, Monocotyledons and Dicotyledons. Chapter 7 describes the secondary growth of the stems of Dicotyledons and Gymnosperms, and is an excellent condensed account of this somewhat complicated process.

The book is one that is especially intended as a class-room work to follow a given line of lectures, and as such the fewness of the illustrations may not be said to constitute a fault, but a few more would certainly add to its value. There is a lack of bibliographical references which we think would serve as a direct stimulus to further work to a few students at least. The author is perhaps fuller on some controversial points still in dispute than one would expect in a work of this size, but this, when supplemented by oral teaching, could be put in proper correlation with the rest.

The book is in no sense a work for technical students, and in this respect may lose a certain amount of influence that it otherwise would gain.

On the whole the work is timely, as there has been little published in this country which makes such an easy and yet comprehensive introduction to the work of Sachs, DeBary and Vines. Hitherto, the student has had, in the main, to search through a mass of detail in these works to find the underlying principles, but in Dr. Gregory's work the main facts are outlined clearly, in excellent English, and the book loses nothing of its scientific value by being simple and concise.

S. E. J.

Proceedings of the Club.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 29TH, 1896.

Dr. Britton occupied the chair and there were 38 persons present.

The following persons were elected active members:

Miss Helen A. Parsons, Miss Helen M. Smith, Dr. Max Mayer, Miss Laura Skinner, Mr. James A. Kelsey, Dr. Albert Schneider, Dr. E. H. James, Mr. Frank G. Hills, Mr. Charles H. Allen and Mr. Eustice H. Gane.

The club then listened to the reading of the announced papers.

Dr. Valery Havard, in his paper on "Drink Plants of the North American Indians," discussed three classes of such plants: first, those like Maguay and Maize, yielding alcoholic beverages; second, those like *Lophophora* and *Ilex vomitoria*, yielding beverages which intoxicate or stimulate, but not by virtue of alcoholic constituents; third, those like Chia seeds and *Rhus* fruits, yielding beverages drunk only for their refreshing properties. The paper was discussed by Dr. Britton and Dr. Rusby, and is published in full in this issue of the BULLETIN.

Dr. John K. Small was unable to present his paper, "Preliminary Notes on the North American species of *Saxifraga*" in full, owing to delay in the receipt of material required for study. He proposed to separate from *Saxifraga* two new genera, *Jepsonia* and *Saxifragopsis*, as published in the January BULLETIN.